

With a high volume of media coverage in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on how government money is proposed to be spent in the rebuilding process. For more information on transparency and opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. Also, let us know how we can adjust this alert to make it better

Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money Weekly News Round-up: April 17-24

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Good Jobs New York launched a new [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Money database](#) to help boost transparency about how much and which government agencies have allocated Hurricane Sandy funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

Transparency Tip from the Electronic Frontier Foundation

[How to Track Government Projects Like a](#)

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is proposing using up to \$2 billion of its disaster relief appropriation from Congress for a national resiliency competition for areas throughout the country that have faced recent disasters. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: This [Staten Island Advance](#) editorial offers a strong plea that the Department of Housing and Urban Development reconsider any plan to redirect funds away from New York City to other disaster-impacted regions in the country.

ALSO: Mayor de Blasio said that the plan to divert some relief funds to other disaster-affected parts of the country would not negatively impact New York City and that he expected the City will still receive all the funds promised. [Capital New York](#)

Mayor de Blasio and Gov. Cuomo announced a new bill in Albany that would prevent an increase in property tax assessments due to repairs made on Sandy-damaged homes. [New York Daily News](#) and [Staten Island Advance](#)

Last week's [report](#) issued by the de Blasio Administration outlines the mayor's rebuilding strategy and his goal to begin construction on 500 Sandy-damaged homes and issue 500 reimbursement checks by the end of summer. [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: This [New York Daily News](#) editorial urges Mayor de Blasio to exceed his goals for beginning construction on 500 homes by summer's end to better meet the 20,000 residents in need of aid.

ALSO: When pressed by reporters, Mayor de Blasio wouldn't say when he expects all Build it Back program registrants to receive rebuilding assistance. [WNYC](#)

A new initiative provides books and school supplies to teachers and students who were in schools displaced or damaged by Hurricane Sandy. [The Reading & Writing Project](#) [donation page]

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Defense Contractor

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A new report from The Regional Plan Association indicates that a vast amount of the region's power generation, public housing, hospital beds and other vital infrastructure will be located in a floodplain by 2050, in some cases representing a 50% increase of current risk, due to rising sea levels. [Capital New York](#)

Last week, Mayor de Blasio announced plans to revise the City's rebuilding strategy. [The New York Times](#) and [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: City & State provides a summary of five key recommendations outlined in Mayor de Blasio's report "One City, Rebuilding Together." [City & State](#)

This [New York Times](#) editorial advises the de Blasio Administration to expand its focus on immediate rebuilding needs to encompass long-term resiliency goals of protecting infrastructure and low-lying coastal residential areas in harm's way.

The League of Conservation Voters criticized Mayor de Blasio's rebuilding plan for being sparse on details about preparing for future extreme-weather disasters or mitigating the effects of climate change. [Capital New York](#)

ALSO: On Earth Day, the de Blasio Administration revealed the [PlaNYC Progress Report](#), which gives a status update for ongoing resiliency projects to protect coastal areas from future flooding.

Inexplicably, the New York City Department of Transportation has been repaving roads in several Staten Island neighborhoods designated for buyouts to be "returned to mother nature." [Staten Island Advance](#)

A new study published in *Geophysical Research Letters* reveals that Manhattan's chance of flooding is now 20 times greater than it was in the 1880s due to sea level rise of over a foot and a half. [The Washington Post](#)

ALSO: Rising sea levels in combination with dredging waterways and destroying wetlands is the primary culprit of the dramatic increase in flood risk. [Mashable](#)

The first phase of construction of the Rockaway Beach boardwalk in Queens began this week. [DNAinfo](#)

Google will be a partner on a pilot proposal for a free-floating pool that filters water in the East and Hudson Rivers and provides real-time water quality data, including pollution levels due to storm surge or runoff. [Co.Exist](#) and [DNAinfo](#)

The New York Police Department is withholding bicycles seized during investigations in a warehouse damaged by Sandy and deemed too dangerous for anyone to enter to retrieve the bicycles. [New York Post](#)

Housing

Some residents of Broad Channel, Queens say Build it Back officials have begun processing their rebuilding paperwork and are cautiously optimistic that the program is on the right track. [The South and West Forum](#)

Jobs

Mayor de Blasio's Sandy rebuilding plan promises to hire local workers for rebuilding work and to create a new workforce development position in the Housing Recovery Office. [Gotham Gazette](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York released the results of an online poll that reveals a third of small businesses in the Sandy-affected region continue to have financial losses due to the storm. [CBS Local](#)

Events

List your upcoming event here! Email elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org

Upcoming deadlines

Monday, April 28: Proof of Loss must be RECEIVED by your flood insurer. Refer to this [Touro Law Center Disaster Relief Clinic flyer](#) on Flood Insurance claims for more details. See also the [notice from FEMA](#)

Wednesday, May 7: Responses due for the Request for Proposals for the [Enterprise Community Partners Capacity Building Grants Program](#). The RFP application materials are [posted online](#). Organizations may apply for up to \$150,000 across a maximum of three grant program areas. Awards will be announced beginning July 7, 2014.

Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: [New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics](#).

Friday, April 25, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm: The Regional Plan Association's 24th Annual [Assembly](#), discussing "A Vision for 2040" and showcasing winners of HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. Waldorf-Astoria, 301 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Friday, April 25, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm: [Bridging the Gap](#), a discussion on financing and communication approaches to address the financial and economical challenges of flood prevention projects and adaptation to climate change, with Marcel Ham, co-founder and co-owner of RebelGroup, a financial economic advisory firm headquartered in The Netherlands and Christien Stoker, a Dutch communication specialist. 666 3rd Ave New York, NY 10017

Tuesday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - [Multifamily Resiliency Measures](#). Part of the Enterprise Community Partners 2014 Resiliency Speakers Series of panel presentations exploring long-term recovery challenges and opportunities for the multifamily affordable housing infrastructure in New York City and the surrounding region in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. One Whitehall Street, 11 Floor, New York, NY 10004. [Registration](#); WebEx access available.

Thursday, May 1, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm: [Finding and Applying for Federal Funding](#), a Free Training Workshop for Faith-based and Community Organizations. New Greater Bethel Ministries, 215-32

Jamaica Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11428. This training is free. Registration deadline is April 28.

Thursday, May 15, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Superstorm Sandy Free Legal Clinic from the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice. Recovery Information Center, Moonachie Presbyterian Church, 221 Moonachie road, Moonachie, NJ 07074.

Friday, May 23, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Flood Resilient Code. Part of the Enterprise Community Partners 2014 Resiliency Speakers Series of panel presentations exploring long-term recovery challenges and opportunities for the multifamily affordable housing infrastructure in New York City and the surrounding region in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Brooklyn

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-3:00: Jubilee Legal Clinic, Coney Island Gospel Assembly, 2828 Neptune Avenue. Visit website for additional hours and information including income requirements.

Advocacy Reports

New York League of Conservation Voters Three Point Action Plan to address New York City's most pressing environmental and resiliency challenges

Natural Resources Defense Council: Preparing for Climate Change: Lessons Learned for Coastal Cities from Hurricane Sandy. This report analyzes FEMA flood maps to reveal that the maps did not account for 65% of the area that was actually inundated by Sandy.

New York City Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters: The 2014 Rebuild Environment: NYC Voluntary Rebuild Capacity Assessment report; a comprehensive assessment of the NYC voluntary sector's rebuild capacity in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Center for an Urban Future: Caution Ahead: Overdue Investments for New York's Aging Infrastructure

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: Weathering the Storm: Rebuilding a More Resilient New York City Housing Authority Post-Sandy.

Future-Proofing Cities: A report from the U.K. Department for International Development and University College London looking at the risks and opportunities for inclusive urban growth in developing countries. 129 cities, 5 urban types and over 100 practical solutions. statistics and analysis.

Field Guide Set & Trainings For Engaging Faith Communities from the National Disaster Interfaiths Network

The International Economic Development Council released Case Studies in Small Business Finance Following a Disaster, a report of six case studies of effective long-term economic recovery efforts of disaster-affected communities.

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, Inc.: Real Affordability: An Evaluation of the Bloomberg Housing Program and Recommendations to Strengthen Affordable Housing Policy

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: How Sandy Rebuilding Can Reduce Inequality in New York City

Rutgers University: Overlooking Oversight: A Lack of Oversight in the Garden State is Placing New Jersey Residents and Assets at Risk.

Ceres report: Cool Response: The SEC & Corporate Climate Change Reporting: SEC Climate

Guidance & S&P 500 Reporting - 2010 to 2013.

Brooklyn Communities Speak: An Action Guide for Local Decision-Makers Post Sandy. This report from the Brooklyn Community Fund and coalition partners analyzes conditions in six coastal Brooklyn neighborhoods post-Sandy, with recommendations for government agencies on how to address persistent recovery challenges while building resiliency in partnership with local communities.

White Paper prepared by Queens Legal Services: Homes Underwater: Forebearance Alternatives for Sandy-Affected Homeowners

Superstorm Research Lab: A Tale of Two Sandys. This whitepaper, based on interviews with a broad range of Sandy-impacted individuals and aid organizations in New York City, sheds light on the inequalities entwined with Sandy's aftermath and recommendations for addressing inequality.

New York City VOAD Volunteer and Construction Committee Resource Guide: This list includes voluntary organizations providing rebuild services in New York City.

New report from the Municipal Art Society: All hands on deck: Mobilizing New Yorkers for a Livable and Resilient New York

New Jersey's Fair Share Housing Center documents its concerns that African Americans and Latinos are being rejected from Sandy relief at higher rates than Caucasians. Fair Share Housing Center Blog

Parsons Brinckerhoff produces The Sandy Disaster Awareness Report, a summary of key developments and funding priorities in the region affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Day Labor, Worker Centers & Disaster Relief Work in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. This report discusses the challenges that workers faced during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the role that worker centers played to protect the health and safety of workers in New York and New Jersey.

Hurricane Sandy Fall 2013 Update: FEMA Assistance Analysis. Enterprise Community Partners examines the level of need and the response efforts in New York and New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy. This brief includes data related to FEMA inspections of those who registered for assistance and the amount that had been awarded to those with assessed damage.

Hurricane Sandy: Housing Needs One Year Later. Enterprise Community Partners provides a summary of early findings from a survey of storm victims to measure the ongoing impact of Hurricane Sandy, one year after the storm.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money

Federal, State & Local Resources

One City, Rebuilding Together: A Report on the City of New York's Response to Hurricane Sandy and the Path Forward.

The Program Management Office of the Hurricane Sandy Task Force released its monthly report [pdf] on how 19 federal agencies have so far spent funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides an assessment of state and local health emergency preparedness, including an evaluation of the response to Hurricane Sandy.

Online briefings from [World Care Centers](#) on disaster volunteer training for communities.

Information on [New York City's Community Emergency Response Teams \[pdf\]](#), along with an application for their 10-week training program.

The Brooklyn Recovery Fund has compiled [this guide](#) to navigating the public comment process for city and state CDBG action plans.

[Crowdsourcing ideas for FEMA](#) - Help FEMA plan for disasters. Join and submit your ideas to their crowd-sourced feedback community and vote on others' ideas.

[New York Rising Year End Report](#). Includes accounting of mass transit investment, reform of Long Island Power Authority, and projected storm recovery and rebuilding costs.

The US Army Corps of Engineers released its [Hurricane Sandy Coastal Projects Evaluation Study](#)

A helpful [visual guide](#) to the agencies and key decision-makers distributing federal disaster relief funds.

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Community Mapping project has posted interactive online maps for six New York Rising communities in New York City. The public is encouraged to provide feedback on their community's plan. Final Community Reconstruction Plans are due by March 31, 2014.

FEMA has released its preliminary [Flood Insurance Rate Maps \(FIRMs\)](#); see also FEMA's guide of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the new maps.

The New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs [Hurricane Sandy Immigrant Outreach Initiative Report](#) on efforts to address the needs of immigrant New Yorkers impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (a private 501-c3) released [an update](#) of how the funds it raised for Sandy aid has been allocated.

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce released a [Disaster Preparedness Checklist](#) for small businesses.

Next City, a weekly urban affairs publication, is launching a new the [Resilient Cities](#) series, which will focus on preparation and resiliency planning for disasters in urban areas around the world.

FEMA's [Hurricane Sandy: One Year Later](#) provides updates on recovery efforts, a timeline and other resources.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force report, [Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy: Stronger Communities, A Resilient Region](#)

ALSO: Good Jobs New York provides a critique of the federal Task Force recommendations in a [three-part blog series](#).

[Hurricane Sandy: An Assessment of Impacted Commercial Corridors and Recommendations for Revitalization \[pdf\]](#). This report by the New York City Department of Small Business Services and the New York City Economic Development Corporation provides an assessment of commercial corridors in Brooklyn, Staten Island, Manhattan, and Queens.

For more resources, visit Good Jobs New York's
[Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

We'd love to hear from you!

Check out our resources on Hurricane Sandy money at our website. Or follow us on Twitter: @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. Please forward your suggestions on how we can make this round-up more useful to you in your work.

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